

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A substrate (7) provided at its visible side with a finish (1) having a grain texture, with a suede type fine ~~fi~~ber upper side, in particular a grain leather with a polished grain side forming the upper side or a synthetic suede material with an upper side consisting of micro ~~fi~~bers fibers, whereby the finish (1) consists of a ~~stabilised~~ stabilized synthetic dispersion and is produced on a backing (2) with a textured surface (3) corresponding to the grain texture and a bonding layer (12) formed of a ~~stabilised~~ stabilized synthetic dispersion containing polyurethane, which is applied to the upper side of the substrate (7), ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the finish (1) has through-capillaries (11) extending through its full thickness and essentially having the same thickness (~~d~~) both in the region of the grain tips (~~6~~) as well as in the region of the grain valleys (8), and is bonded by way of a single thin bonding layer (12) to the substrate (7).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the capillaries (11) have different cross-sections.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the capillaries (~~11~~) are arranged irregularly distributed in the finish (1).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the capillaries (11) have a diameter of between 0,005 0.005 mm and 0,05 0.05 mm, ~~preferably between 0,009 mm and 0,02 mm.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to ~~one of the~~
~~claims 1 to 4, characterized thereby that claim 1 wherein~~ the finish (1) has at least 100
capillaries, preferably at least 250 capillaries (11) over an area of 100 cm².

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to ~~one of the~~
~~claims 1 to 5, characterized thereby that claim 1 wherein~~ the capillaries (11) extend
substantially in a straight line.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1,
~~characterized thereby that wherein~~ the bonding layer (12) has interruptions.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1,
~~characterized thereby that wherein~~ the bonding layer (12) has weakened positions (18) of
reduced thickness.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1,
~~characterized thereby that wherein~~ the bonding layer (12) is arranged only partially on the
surface of the substrate (7).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1,
~~characterized thereby that wherein~~ the bonding layer (12) has a punctiform, screen or grid,
preferably a net like texture.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~The substrate according to claim 8, ~~characterized thereby that~~wherein the bonding layer (12) has a maximum thickness of between ~~0,01-0.01~~ 0.01-0.01 mm and ~~0,05-0.05~~ 0.05-0.05 mm and at its weakened position (18) a thickness of between ~~0,002-0.002~~ 0.002-0.002 and ~~0,01-0.01~~ 0.01-0.01 mm.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~wherein its upper side (14) is formed fibrously, ~~preferably fine~~ fibrously, and that the bonding layer (12) is arranged predominantly in the region of the ~~fibre~~ fiber peaks, so that between these hollow spaces (16), causing a pump effect, are kept free.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~wherein the bonding layer (12) consists of a ~~stabilised~~ stabilized, polyurethane containing cross-linked synthetic dispersion.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~The substrate according to claim 13, ~~characterized thereby that~~wherein the bonding layer (12) consists of a ~~stabilised~~ stabilized polyester polyurethane dispersion.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~The substrate according to claim 13, ~~characterized thereby that~~wherein the polyurethane containing dispersion has at least partially a crystalline structure or a partial crystalline structure.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 13, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the synthetic dispersion contains adhesively acting additives, for example soft resins or soft polymers, in particular acrylates.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the bonding layer (12) has a foam texture.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the bonding layer (12) contains micro hollow spheres with a diameter less than 21 μm .

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the bonding layer (12) has a weight per unit area of between 20 g/m^2 and 90 g/m^2 .

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the finish (1) has approximately the same texture and the same density in all cross-sectional regions.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the finish (1) consists of a combination of a ~~stabilised~~ stabilized, a polyurethane dispersion containing a cross-linking agent with a high softening point, and a ~~stabilised~~ stabilized polyurethane dispersion containing a cross-linking agent

with preferably crystalline or partial crystalline structure with a low softening point, which dispersion is thermoplastic prior to cross-linking.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the finish (1) contains micro hollow spheres forming closed cells with a diameter of less than 21 μm .

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the grain tips (6) of the finish (1) have microscopic small smooth raises (13).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the visible side of the finish (1) has a nubuck texture, out of which fine hairs project, which form microscopical small raises.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 23 ~~or 24~~, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the raises (13) have a diameter of between 3 μm and 60 μm , ~~preferably between 5 μm and 15 μm , as well as a maximum length of 110 μm .~~

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the finish (1) contains waxes and/or silicones on its visible side.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the visible side of the finish (1) is provided with a thin finish.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein on its side (19) opposite to the upper side provided with the finish, there is provided a strong rhombic synthetic woven or knitted fabric (21) with projecting ~~fibres~~ fiber.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 28, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the woven or knitted fabric (21) is covered by means of a thin coating (20).

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 1, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein it consists of a shaped section.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 30, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein it consists of a shaped section in the flank or belly region of a leather hide and has a finish with a strongly impregnated grain texture.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): ~~Substrate~~ The substrate according to claim 30, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein it consists of a shaped section in the core region of a leather hide and has a finish with a flat grain texture.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method for producing a finish (1) provided with backing (7) with a grain texture on its visible side showing a suede type, fine fibrous upper side, whereby initially for forming the finish (1) an aqueous synthetic dispersion of a backing (2) consisting of silicone rubber, which has a surface (3) textured according to the grain texture of the finish (1), is applied and allowed to ~~stabilise~~ stabilize into a film, furthermore in the upper side of the substrate (7) a synthetic dispersion forming a bonding layer (12) is applied, and furthermore the substrate (7) with this upper side is placed onto the film and subjected to a pressure and heat treatment, ~~characterized thereby that wherein~~ the synthetic dispersion containing solvent free polyurethane as well as a cross-linking agent is applied in such a manner on a backing (2), having a uniform temperature of less than 105°C, that this synthetic dispersion on touching on the backing (2) is ~~stabilised~~ stabilized immediately and, after water evaporation, a uniform thick film having a texture with thickness of less than 0,04 0.04 mm is formed.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 33, ~~characterized thereby that wherein~~ a synthetic dispersion is used, which consists of a combination of a polyurethane dispersion containing a cross-linking agent with a high softening point and a polyurethane dispersion containing a cross-linking agent with preferably crystalline or partially crystalline structure with a low softening point, which dispersion is thermoplastic prior to cross-linking.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 33, ~~characterized thereby that wherein~~ the synthetic dispersion is applied onto the heated backing (2) by means of a fine spraying fog (25) produced by spraying nozzles (24) having a small diameter.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 35, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the spray application takes place without air admixture at a pressure between 40 bar and 100 bar by using spraying nozzles (24) with a diameter of less than 0,04 0.04 mm.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 33, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the textured surface (3) of the backing (20) is produced by moulding of the grain texture of a natural leather.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 33, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the textured surface (3) of the backing (2) is produced by laser treatment.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 38, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the textured surface (3) of the backing (2) produced by laser treatment is multiplied by way of a master.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 33, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein a backing (2) consisting of addition cross-linked silicone rubber with a Shore hardness between 25 Shore A and 70 Shore A is used.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 33, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein a backing (2) of a heat conducting silicone rubber with a density of more than 110 g/cm^3 , ~~preferably of more than 120 g/cm^3~~ , is used.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 41, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein a backing (2) in which inorganic fillers are embedded, is used.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 33, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein a backing (2) is used which is bonded by glueing by means of a metallic support (23), ~~preferably consisting of aluminium.~~

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 43, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the support (23) consists of an aluminium sheet with a thickness between 1 mm and 3 mm.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 43, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein the bonding of the backing (2) to the metallic support (23) takes place by means of a single component silicone glue, in which a thin fleece material of synthetic ~~fibres~~ fibers with a weight per unit area of less than 150 g/m^2 is embedded.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 33, ~~characterized thereby that~~ wherein a synthetic dispersion is applied on the upper side of the substrate (7), which dispersion essentially consists of a polyurethane dispersion with a low

softening point and preferably crystalline or partial crystalline structure and a cross-linking agent, and this being such that on touching the upper side of the substrate (7) it rapidly stabilises stabilizes and a non-continuous bonding layer (12) is formed.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 33, characterized thereby that wherein a synthetic dispersion is applied to the upper side of the substrate (7), which dispersion essentially consists of a polyurethane dispersion with a low softening point and preferably crystalline or partial crystalline structure and a cross-linking agent, and this being such that on touching the upper side of the substrate (7) it rapidly stabilises stabilizes and a bonding layer (12) with weakened positions (18) of the reduced thickness is formed.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 33, characterized thereby that wherein the upper side of the substrate (7) provided with the dispersion forming the bonding layer (12) is placed onto the film showing the cross-linking structure located on the backing (2) and being extensively water-free, as soon as such dispersion is gripping-dry but still contains residue moisture.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 33, characterized thereby that wherein the film having a net-texture located on the backing (2) with the substrate (7) placed thereon provided with the synthetic dispersion forming the bonding layer (12) is pressed between pressure elastic plates at a temperature of between 60°C and 105°C and a pressure of maximum 5 kg/cm².

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 49,
~~characterized thereby that wherein,~~ after pressing, the substrate ~~(7)~~ provided with the finish
~~(1)~~ is subjected to a residue drying in suspended condition.